

**Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB)
Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Boards (VCLOB)
Joint MEETING SUMMARY**

**Thursday, October 22, 2009, 1 – 3pm at the Langdon and Anne Simons Senior Apartments,
2119 Third Avenue – Downtown Seattle**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by VCLOB Chair Douglas Hoople and RHSLOB Co-Chair Kathy Brasch at 1:10pm. A quorum was present. Chair Hoople asked all board members, staff, panelist, presenters and guests in attendance to introduce themselves.

Roll Call

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Members Present: Kathy Brasch (Co-Chair), Kathleen Hadaller, and Loran Lichty.

RHSLOB Excused/Absent: Kevin Bernadt, Dorry Elias-Garcia, Edith Nelson, and Joe Ingram (Co-Chair).

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Members Present: Douglas Hoople (Chair), Bill Wood (Vice-Chair), Kathy Lewis, Stan Gunno, Gary Kingsbury, Roger Welles, Robert Stephens Jr., Oren Hadaller, Francisco Ivarra, and Ron Forest.

VCLOB Members Excused/Absent: Cynthia Lefever.

County Staff Present: Jackie MacLean, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Linda Peterson (DCHS), Sadikifu Akina-James (DCHS), Debora Gay (DCHS), John Hoskins (DCHS), Marcy Kubbs (DCHS), Sonia Singh (DCHS), Joel Estey (KCVP), Kelli Larsen (DCHS), Karen Brawley (DCHS), and Katy Miller.

Guests: Councilmember Larry Phillips, Travis Commodore, staff with Councilmember Phillips, Megan Nyce, Chloe Gale, Michael Kabisch, Rosemary D'Agrosa, Tara Connor, and Bill Kay, Veterans Specialist, Plymouth Housing Group.

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft June 22, 2009 meeting summary was reviewed.

ACTION: The June 22, 2009 meeting summary was approved as written.

Welcome

Chair Hoople introduced Councilmember Larry Phillips from District 4. Councilmember Phillips thanked the boards for inviting him to the meeting and indicated he was pleased the meeting was being held at one of the housing projects that received Levy funding. He supported the Levy and since its passage has tracked the Levy's implementation progress that supports needed community, human and health services. According to Councilmember Phillips, the Levy also has provided an opportunity to cultivate new programs, approaches and

service strategies. He indicated that in the current economic recession, these services are needed more than ever. The Levy has resulted in many client successes that each in the long term, reduces service costs for King County and its residents. He encouraged the boards to share with our communities the positive outcomes the Levy has had, to educate and listen to the public, and to begin with greater focus to evaluate recommending a Levy renewal.

DCHS Update

Chair Hoople introduced DCHS Director, Jackie MacLean. Director MacLean reported the boards have thus far volunteered 1617 hours of their time since the Levy was passed. The boards have provided important oversight of the implementation of the Levy including reviewing each service plan, serving on Request for Proposals (RFP) review panels, and educating the public about the success of the Levy. As one of ten citizen boards within DCHS, she expressed appreciation for their services and encouraged the boards to continue their good work.

Chairs Report – Chair Douglas Hoople (VCLOB)

Introduction: During third quarter 2009 besides participating in one joint board meeting, the VCLOB hosted three Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight board meetings and two subcommittee meetings. Members from both boards attended special levy related events such as groundbreakings for capital projects culminating in 130 total hours of volunteer service from board members. As Director MacLean indicated, this brings the total number of volunteer hours provided by the boards since the beginning of the Levy to 1617 hours.

Summary of Highlights:

Metropolitan King County Council Regional Policy Committee: On September 9th, Kathy Brasch, the Co-Chair of the Human Services Board and Chair Hoople (VCLOB) spoke before the Regional Policy Committee to present the 2008 Levy Annual Report and report on oversight activities of both boards. The committee members in attendance unanimously praised the report, implementation progress and positive impact it is having throughout the county. The committee also acknowledged the hard work of the oversight boards.

Evaluation of Strategy One Report: The Levy's first evaluation report an "Evaluation of Strategy One" was completed by the Levy Evaluator, Jon Hoskins. This report is available for review on the Levy Webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/DCHS/Levy .

Groundbreaking: On July 17th board members attended the Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC) groundbreaking for Canady House. The Veterans Levy provided \$350,000 towards the construction of this housing project. Once complete in 2010, the building will be home to 83 chronically homeless men and women living with persistent mental illness, chemical dependency or other issues. Of the 83 units, 25 will be reserved for homeless veterans' households.

Service on Capital Housing Review Panels: Starting last month, Co-chair Joe Ingram of the Human Services Board and Chair Hoople (VCLOB) served on RFP panels review funding applications for capital housing projects. Co-chair Brasch of the Human Services Board, similarly volunteered to serve on a review panel for supportive housing services (Activity 2.4(b)). Capital funding awards are expected to be announced in December of this year.

Chairs Report – Co-Chair Kathy Brasch (RHSLOB)

Introduction: During the 3rd quarter of 2009, the RHSLOB hosted three Regional Human Services Oversight board meetings and 2 subcommittee meetings. Members from both boards also attended special levy related events such as the Eastside Human Services Forum, served on RFP review panels, and assisted King County staff in providing presentation on the levy to regional cities. In third quarter, the Levy boards and appropriate board committees reviewed two procurement plans related to Levy Activities 2.8 and 5.8. Both procurement plans were approved this September and are available for public access via the Levy Webpage.

Summary of Highlights:

Procurement 5.8 - Common Data Set: The intent of this procurement plan is to “develop a common data set for the assessment of adults, youth and families seeking a range of housing and human services...and to promote increased cross-systems coordination and service integration...” for those with medical and human service needs. Levy funds will be used to facilitate the regional Health Information Exchange (HIE). The HIE will be an interactive data repository that improves services by collecting and sharing health and human service records between providers, thereby reducing duplication and redundancy of testing and services.

Procurement Plan 2.8 - Link Education and Employment to Supportive Housing: A total of \$700,000 had been retained from the original procurement plan to support other education, employment, and housing interventions that aligned with the Workforce Education Collaborative. Known as SkillUp Washington, this initiative seeks to help low income workers obtain post-secondary credentials that increase their earnings on a career path toward self-sufficiency. King County has designed Project Self-Sufficiency for Families and Singles to align this \$700,000 set aside of Veterans and Human Services funds with rapid re-housing programs.

Panel Discussion: Levy Services in the Community – Facilitated by Co-Chair Brasch

Several members of the community receiving levy funds provided an update on their programs. Each panelist was introduced, shared information about their programs and answered questions from those present.

Karen Brawley, Program/Project Manager (DCHS, CSD, Housing and Community Development)

Karen shared that the 2009 funding round for capital projects was conducted this fall and results will be announced by the end of the year. So far, three projects with Levy funding have been completed. They are: Plymouth Housing Group’s Simon Apartments, Friends of Youth’s New Ground, and Navos’ Burien Heights Residences. Two other projects should be completed by the end of the year, Low Income Housing Institute’s McDermott Place and Community Housing Mental Health Agency’s Brierwood project.

According to Karen, Levy funding is important to the expansion of affordable housing in our community. Housing developers have been able to leverage Levy funds to secure other necessary financial support for projects. Levy funding she predicts will become even more important as other sources of housing funds are shrinking. She encouraged non-profits to expand the scope of their services, such as focusing on serving veterans.

Megan Nyce, Social Services Program Manager, Plymouth Housing Group, Simon Apartments

Forty-five of the almost 100 units of Plymouth Housing Group's Simons Senior Apartments which received support from the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy, are set aside for people with long-term homelessness who were high utilizers of costly medical, treatment and shelter services. Ten of the forty-five units were reserved for veterans.

The Simon Apartments operates under a Housing First philosophy which means there are no pre-conditions individuals must meet prior to entering housing. Many enter housing with multiple and complex behavioral health issues, chemical addictions and criminal histories. Once housed however, case managers work with the residents to enhance the quality of their lives and to reduce the harm caused by their chemical dependency or poor self-care.

Of those individuals placed in these set-aside units, 94 percent remained housed twelve months or longer. Emergency room admissions for the ten veterans occupying the units reserved for veterans, went from thirty-two in the year prior to moving into Simon's Apartments to zero during the first year they were housed. Medical admissions went from sixteen prior to being housed to eight. These admissions were facilitated by primary care instead of through the emergency room.

Sobering Center use also went down after moving into Simon Apartments permanent housing. Of the initial tenants who occupied the forty-five set-aside units, sobering center visits went from 926 by twenty people the year prior to receiving permanent housing to 20 visits by four individuals the first year they were housed.

Katy Miller, Support Housing Planner (DCHS, CSD, Housing and Community Development)

To date, a total of \$3.2 million in Levy funding has been awarded for supportive services for permanent housing. The annual RFP process awards \$1 million to providers for intensive case management to assist individuals to become more self sufficient and retain their housing. Evergreen Treatment Services' REACH program serves the hardest to serve helping homeless clients obtain medical care needs, stable housing, income support, addiction treatment, and develop self-sufficiency skills.

Chole Gale, Project Director of REACH (Evergreen Treatment Services)

Since 1996, Evergreen Treatment Services, REACH case workers have been providing intensive case management services to homeless chronic public inebriates in downtown Seattle. During that time the REACH team composed of twenty case managers has provided assistance to several hundred members of this population. They provide relationship-based services to their clientele who present with high needs and significant barriers to receiving services.

Chole indicated that the Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides a "Cadillac" model of services to its clients. She just wishes they provided more outreach services so that expertise could be more widely available, especially to the population REACH serves.

Michael Kabisch, Intensive Case Manager and Veterans Specialist with REACH, Evergreen Treatment Services

Michael reports the individuals he works with are looking for meaning in their lives and their continued substance abuse is not consistent with that. He indicates that Housing First is a successful program model that helps bring meaning to people's lives by providing them with a roof over their heads, and supportive relationships to help build their ability to become more

self-sufficient. The Levy funding has been an “incredible resource” as its flexibility allows it to be used in many ways to help support clients. He shared the following success story.

“Tom” an undiagnosed schizophrenic and crack addict spent 18 years in a Texas prison. When Michael met him he clearly suffered the effects of having been institutionalized all those years and was mistrusting of Michael’s attempts to help him. Michael remembers saying, “I understand if you don’t trust me. You have no reason to. Don’t trust me... make me earn it.”, to which Tom responded, “Doughnuts and coffee go a long way”.

With Michael’s continued efforts, Tom eventually re-engaged at the VA Medical Center and kept his appointment with the psychiatrist. Back on medications, he was willing to move into the Simon Apartments and engage in their Housing First program. He insisted on sleeping on the floor however, refusing the bed that came with the apartment. Six months after moving in Tom finally approached his case manager stating, “I think I am ready for that mattress now.”

Rosemary D’Agrosa, Housing Health Outreach

Rosemary provided a handout, “Housing Health Outreach Team” which served as an overview of services and outcomes related to the Housing Health Outreach Team (HHOT).

The team provides healthcare services to formerly homeless residents of 10 locations of permanent housing buildings in Downtown Seattle. The strengths of the team and program are its collaboration with health and human service providers, the range of healthcare providers available (i.e. nurses, a physician, a mental health worker and chemical dependency counselors) its ability to conduct site visits and develop personalized healthcare plans with clients. The healthcare regimen helps clients establish a regular health care regimen, and access to primary care providers, in place of relying on emergency healthcare visits. The program has been able to successfully intervene in cases where a clients housing may be jeopardized because of mental illness, addiction or other healthcare needs. Among the findings of the program is an “increasing gap in nursing home or adult family care facilities for homeless or formerly homeless individuals...”. Rosemary shared a story in which an elderly client was in need of medical care and among his primary goals was to remain independent and not live in a nursing home. By addressing and planning for the client’s healthcare needs, they were able to continue living independently.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Petitions/Communications (public comment):

- November 13, 2009, there will be a Military Kids conference in Tacoma.
- Grand opening of Low Income Housing Institute’s McDermott Place is December 12, 2009

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. Board member remained to view and discuss the Equity and Social Justice video “Unnatural Causes” with Sadikifu Akina-James.